

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
ON CATEGORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND
ECCLESIASTICAL ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria;

Acting pursuant to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States Party; and

Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological and ethnological material representing Bulgaria's rich cultural heritage;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Government of the United States of America, in accordance with its legislation entitled the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, shall restrict the importation into the United States of (1) archaeological material ranging in date from 7500 B.C. to approximately 1750 A.D. including categories of stone, metal, ceramic, bone, ivory, other organics, wood, glass, faience, paintings and mosaics, and (2) ecclesiastical ethnological material ranging in date from 681 A.D. to approximately 1750 A.D. including categories of stone, metal, bone, ivory, textiles, wood, glass, parchment, painting, mosaics, and other material identified on a list to be promulgated by the United States Government (hereinafter referred to as the Designated List), unless the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria issues a license which certifies that such exportation was not in violation of its laws.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall offer for return to the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria any material on the Designated List forfeited to the Government of the United States of America.

3. Such import restrictions shall become effective on the date the Designated List is published by the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S. Federal Register, the official United States Government publication providing fair public notice.

ARTICLE II

1. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall seek to publicize this Memorandum of Understanding and the reasons for it, through various means available including social media.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate technical assistance to Bulgaria on the subjects of site security, cultural resource management, prevention of looting at museums and other institutions, and prevention of smuggling, as appropriate under existing programs in the public and/or private sectors.

3. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall continue its efforts to identify and register cultural property, with particular attention to the ethnological materials in the stewardship of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria and other registered religious groups, as a means of increasing the protection against pillage and facilitating the recovery of stolen objects.
4. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall use its best efforts to document, track, and publicize incidents of theft and looting, and promptly report them to national and international authorities.
5. Regarding export permits, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall (1) gather and track statistics on the number of such permits requested and issued for both temporary and permanent export of cultural property pursuant to existing laws and regulations; and (2) ensure that the process of applying for such permits of export and temporary export is accessible and clear.
6. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall expand its educational and outreach initiatives in support of the importance of protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of Bulgaria into schools and to the general public. Noting that Bulgaria's museums are well-placed to undertake these initiatives, the Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate training in museum education to Bulgaria, as appropriate under existing programs in the public and/or private sectors.
7. Both Governments agree that, in order for United States' import restrictions to be successful in deterring pillage, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall strengthen enforcement of its own cultural heritage protection laws, aiming: (1) to increase the overall number of prosecutions; (2) to hand out meaningful sentences or punishments; and (3) to put into effect and implement the necessary administrative and punitive measures against the unauthorized use of metal detectors in archaeological reserves and other areas known to contain cultural assets.
8. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shall use its best efforts to encourage its museums to lend archaeological and ethnological materials of the types covered by this Memorandum of Understanding to U.S. museums and institutions for the exhibitions and for other scholarly or cultural initiatives, for the maximum time currently allowed under Bulgarian law.

ARTICLE III

The obligations of both Governments and the activities carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each Government, as applicable, including the availability of funds.

ARTICLE IV

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature. It shall remain in force for a period of five years, unless extended.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended through an exchange of diplomatic notes.
3. The effectiveness of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to review in order to determine, before the expiration of the five-year period of this Memorandum of Understanding, whether it should be extended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding.

DONE at Sofia, this 14th day of January, 2014, in duplicate, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA:**

